

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for Harmonized Tariff Schedule (“HTS”) auditing using a software user interface and a database coupled to the software user interface using one or more layers of executable code comprising:

receiving by an importer from a customs broker a copy of an entry packet which the customs broker previously submitted to U.S. Customs, the entry packet containing information relating to a shipment for importation;

entering, by the importer, the copy of the entry packet into a first repository in the database;

consulting, by the importer, a second repository in the database, the second repository containing records of the importer relevant to a plurality of imported goods;

comparing, by the importer, the entry packet in the first repository with the records in the second repository;

identifying, by the importer, one or more discrepancies between the copy of the entry packet and the records, thereby auditing the entry packet; and

generating, by the importer, a report identifying the one or more discrepancies between the copy of the entry packet and the records.

2. (Original) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the report is used to identify and correct errors relating to importation.

3. (Original) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the software user interface comprises links from the first repository to the second repository.

4. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the copy of the entry packet is received by the importer from the customs broker in an electronic format.

5. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the copy of the entry packet comprises a 7501 Customs form.

6. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the copy of the entry packet comprises a commercial invoice for the imported goods.

7. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the copy of the entry packet comprises a shipping manifest.

8. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the copy of the entry packet with the records comprises comparing HTS classifications assigned by the customs broker to HTS classifications stored in a product dictionary in the second repository.

9. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the copy of the entry packet with the records comprises comparing attribute classifications assigned by the customs broker to attribute classifications located in the second repository.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the report comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies.

12. (Currently amended) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the copy of the entry packet comprises a Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest.

13. (Original) The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the one or more discrepancies is performed by a second user in a supervisory position over the importer.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A system for auditing HTS classifications, comprising:
a database comprising internal records of the importer relevant to Harmonized Tariff Schedule ("HTS") classifications;

a computer terminal;
a user interface accessible from the computer terminal; and
a software program suite coupled to the database and to the user interface, the software program suite configured to:

allow an importer to receive a copy of electronic entry packets from a customs broker which the customs brokers previously submitted to U.S. Customs;

enable an importer -user- at the computer terminal to compare one of the entry packets to the internal records, thereby auditing the entry packets; and

enable the importer user- to generate a report comprising discrepancies between the one of the copy of the entry packets and the internal records.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the report is used to identify and correct errors relating to importation.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the report comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16 further comprising a second computer terminal through which the user interface is accessible.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the second terminal is configured to enable a second user to compare some of the copy of the entry packets to the internal records.

22. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the entry packets comprise a Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest.

23. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the software interface comprises software navigational links.

24. (Currently amended) An Harmonized Tariff Schedule (“HTS”) classification method for auditing entry packets for U.S. Customs comprising:

an importer inserting, using a software user interface, a copy of an entry packet from a customs broker which the customs broker submitted to U.S. Customs into a database;

the importer comparing data in the copy of the entry packet to internal records of the importer located in the database;

the importer identifying one or more errors between the data and the internal records, thereby auditing the entry packet; and

the importer generating a report comprising the errors.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the copy of the entry packet comprises a 7501 U.S. Customs form.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the database further comprises a plurality of repositories, including a repository for storing the copy of the entry packet and at least one repository for storing the internal records.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein one of the at least one repository comprises a database of HTS classifications.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the comparing is performed by a user working for the importer.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the report is used to identify and correct discrepancies relating to importation.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the software user interface is accessible from a plurality of user terminals.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the copy of the entry packet is obtained from a customs broker.

32. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the inserting copy of the the entry packet is performed by an analyst working for the importer.

33. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the internal records are organized in an internal-to-commodity map.

34. (Currently amended) An apparatus for auditing of Harmonized Tariff Schedule ("HTS") classification for U.S. Customs importation, comprising:

(i) a database comprising a plurality of repositories;

(ii) software user interface means for an importer accessing the database comprising:

(a) input means for an importer entering a copy of entry packets received from customs brokers that the customs brokers submitted to U.S Customs;

(b) comparison means for the importer comparing copy of the entry packets with internal records of the importer in some of the plurality of repositories, thereby auditing the entry packet;

(c) report-generating means for the importer creating reports identifying inconsistencies between the copy of the entry packets and the internal records; and

(iii) a plurality of remote terminals through which the software user interface is accessible by one or more users of the importer.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein reports from the report-generating means are used to correct errors in importation.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the software user interface comprises links from the first repository to the second repository; the entry packet is received by the importer from the customs broker in an electronic format;

the copy of the entry packet comprises a 7501 Customs form, a commercial invoice for the imported goods, and a shipping manifest;

the comparing the copy of the entry packet with the records comprises comparing HTS classifications assigned by the customs broker to HTS classifications stored in a product dictionary in the second repository;

the comparing the copy of the entry packet with the records comprises comparing attribute classifications assigned by the customs broker to attribute classifications located in the second repository; and

the report comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies.